in the annual examinations, can't be adopted in the institutes of higher learning particularly the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs);

(b) whether as per the present trend in IITs most of the SC and ST students are suffering a lot on the ground that their performance are not up to the mark;

(c) if so, whether any IIT has taken any action so far against their teachers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is no parameter set up In Higher Education, including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), for taking action against teachers if their students do not perform well in annual examinations.

(b) to (d) It is not correct to say that most of the Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST) students are suffering on the ground that their performance is not upto the mark. For SC / ST students, who perform poorly, special efforts are made to help them through guidance and counseling. Separate cells to assist the students from weaker sections are available to solve their day to day problems.

Introduction of new course on renewable energy

367. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would introduce new courses on renewable energy in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and in Central varsities since our country's solar industries needs a large number of trained and skilled human resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Central Universities, being autonomous institutions, are empowered to introduce various branches of learning in their curricula from time to time. Some Central Universities and IITs have been conducting various courses / programmes on conventional and non-conventional energy, including renewable energy.

Second report of Knowledge Commission

†368.SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Knowledge Commission has stated the need to make comprehensive change in structure of higher education institutes in their second report;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Commission has given special emphasis on recommendations for community participation at local level and decentralization of educational institutes;

(c) the role and significance of bodies like UGC, AICTE, NCTE, MCI, NAAC etc. for higher education; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government regarding these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended the establishment of an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE) which would be responsible for setting criteria and deciding entry and also accord degree granting powers to higher education institutions and that the role of UGC would be limited to disbursement of grants and maintenance of institutions in higher education. According to the NKC the entry regulatory function of regulation in professional education would be performed by the proposed IRAHE.

(d) The need for an overarching independent body for overseeing the entire spectrum of higher education has been accepted by Government as one of its priorities.

Optimum utilization of education infrastructure

369. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run education institutes, colleges and schools in multiple shifts for optimum utilization of the education infrastructure available and increasing the literacy ratio; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Keeping in view, the regional imbalance of the number of seats in various States of the country, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has allowed second shift of engineering colleges in existing colleges only in those States where the number of seats available in engineering colleges per lakh of population are less than the all India average. Further, in order to reduce imbalance between engineering education and polytechnic education. AICTE has permitted second shift of Polytechnic in existing Polytechnic Institutions and also a second shift of Polytechnic in existing Engineering Institution. 41 Kendriya Vidyalayas are also functioning in double shifts.